

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7302

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XL TZ

SUBJ: CARIBBEAN MILITANTS

ITANTS BLAME U.S. FOR EXCLUSION FROM PAN

AFRICAN CONGRESS

REF: BRIDGETOWN A-031, ITEM 4

1. STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF CARIBBEAN MILITANTS WHICH HAS BEEN PLANNING CARIBBEAN PARTICIPATION IN FORTHCOMING PAN-AFRICAN CONGRESS (PAC) IN TANZANIA CONVENED IN BARBADOS JUNE 9 TO DISCUSS RECENT DECISION BY ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) TO BAR ATTENDANCE AT PAC OF THOSE NOT REPRESENTING GOVERNMENTS OR RULING PARTIES. PRESENT AT BARBADOS MEETING WERE TIM HECTOR, LEADER OF ANTIGUA'S AFRO-CARIBBEAN MOVEMENT (ACM), MAURICE BISHOP OF GRENADA'S NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT (NJM), GEDDES GRANGER OF TRINIDAD'S NATIONAL JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE (NJAC), AND BOBBY CLARKE, LEADER OF BARBADOS' PEOPLES' PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT (PPM).

2. MEMBERS OF STEERING COMMITTEE HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 10

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AT WHICH THEY BLAMED USG FOR

ACTING IN COLLUSION WITH CARRIB-BEAN GOVERNMENTS TO BAR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN PAC. PRESS CONFERENCE WAS FRONT-PAGED IN JUN 11 ISSUE OF BARBADOS "ADVOCATE-NEWS" UNDER BOLD HEADLINE, "MILITANTS BLAME US FOR EXCLUSION." ADVOCATE STORY QUOTED TIM HECTOR AS STATING THAT OAU COMMITTEE WHICH CONVEYED NOTICE THAT CARIBBEAN MILITANTS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND WAS HASTILY FORMED GROUP NOT OFFICIALLY CONNECTED WITH PAC SECRETARIATE AND NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAKE SUCH DECISIONS. HECTOR ALSO CONDEMNED THE "UNPRINCIPLED, CALLOUS AND HIGH-HANDED ACTION OF IMPERIALISM AND ITS BLACK AGENTS," THE LATTER AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE LEADERS OF CERTAIN CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS.

3. JUNE 12 ISSUE OF BARBADOS DAILY "ADVOCATE" CARRIED FEATURE EDITORIAL CHIDING MILITANTS FOR ILLOGIC OF THEIR ASSERTION THAT U.S. WOULD TAKE ACTIVE INTEREST IN EXCLUDING THEM FROM PAC, CHALLENGING THEM TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THEIR ACCUSATION, AND POINTING OUT ABSURDITY OF USG'S ATTEMPTING TO DICTATE TO TANZANIA, WHOSE NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS ARE IMPECCABLE, ABOUT WHO IT, AS PAC'S HOST, SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT INVITE TO CONGRESS.

4. EMBASSY POLOFF RAISED ISSUE WITH MAURICE BISHOP JUNE 12. BISHOP NONE TOO CONVENCINGLY DEFENDED REMARKS MADE AT PRESS CONFERENCE, ADMITTING THAT STEERING COMMITTEE HAD NO EVIDENCE ON WHICH TO BASE ITS CONTENTIONS. HE LAMELY ARGUED THAT USG, ALONG WITH CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS, DID NOT WISH TO SEE CERTAIN ISSUES RAISED AT PAC, SUCH AS IMPERIALISTIC BEHAVIOR OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN CARIBBEAN, AND THEREFORE SOUGHT TO HAVE MILITANTS EXCLUDED FROM CONGRESS. BISHOP ALSO QUESTIONED CREDENTIALS OF SOME MEMBERS OF OAU COMMITTEE WHICH MADE DECISION, SUGGESTING THAT THEY MIGHT BE OVERLY INFLUENCED BY, OR PERHAPS EVEN PAID AGENTS OF, THE U.S. HE FINALLY ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS AN "INSTINCTIVE REACTION" ON THE PART OF THE MILITANTS TO BLAME "IMPERIALISTS" FOR THEIR BEING SNUBBED RATHER THAN ACCEPT THE MORE LIKELY FACT THAT GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN PAC, INCLUDING THE TANZANIAN HOSTS, MIGHT HAVE THEIR OWN REASONS FOR BARRING THEIR PARTICIPATION.
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